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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 20 January 55

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1. Sen. Humphrey (D., Minn.) has introduced a joint resolution to establish a Commission on Government Security, 4 members each to be appointed by the President, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. The Commission shall study the entire Government security program, including statutes, executive orders and administrative regulations covering the field of espionage, loyalty and subversive activities. In the course of his speech in support of this resolution, Sen. Humphrey pointed out the overlap and different standards of clearances in the Government, and in particular the fact that high ranking officers of the military establishment with access to the most secret military information were required to have special AEC clearances. Sen. Humphrey goes on to state:

"Fortunately the 1954 Atomic Energy Act remedies this situation to some extent, but much of the anomaly remains. Although there now exists a basis for flexibility of investigation, and for interchange of AEC and Department of Defense clearances, personnel of other Government agencies, including such important ones as the CIA and the State Department, may not be able to have access to AEC information on the strength of their own agency investigations and clearances, but must undergo the specific treatment prescribed in the Atomic Energy Act. Again I think a heavy burden of proof rests upon those who would argue that such ambiguities, complexities, and contradictions are justifiable."

2. Cong. Bentley (R., Mich.), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, called me for an expression of views on the question of a Joint Committee. He stated that Cong. Zablocki had asked him to sponsor such a measure and he did not propose to do so until discussing it with us. I stated our position on this matter to the Congressman, stressing how satisfied we were with the Armed Services Committee arrangements. He pointed out, however, that it would be important for a committee to be able to cut across the intelligence field, and while agreeing that the Armed Services Committee had jurisdiction over G-2, ONI and Air Intelligence it did not cover such things as the State Department intelligence setup. He also pointed out that naturally Mr. Short and Mr. Vinson would be opposed to such a measure on

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the basis that the loss of supervision over CIA would decrease the jurisdiction of their Committee to that extent. Mr. Bentley asked if we had ever formally commented on this legislation, and I informed him that we had only been requested to comment by the Senate Rules Committee last year. He stated that if it were unclassified he would appreciate it if we could give him a copy of our official views as expressed to the Senate to aid him in his thinking on the subject. It is recommended that we make a copy of the Director's unclassified letter of 30 April 1954 to Mr. Bookwalter, Chief Clerk of the Senate Rules Committee, available to Mr. Bentley. The Congressman said that he would hold off Mr. Zablocki until he had time to consider the matter further and thoroughly. He did not appear to be in any way hostile to CIA.

3. It is assumed that the reports of the Hoover Commission to the 84th Congress will follow the same legislative pattern as the previous Commission's reports to the 81st Congress. Under this procedure the reports will be sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations under Senator McClellan. This will be the action committee, with responsibility probably lying with its Government Reorganization Subcommittee. This subcommittee is being chaired by Senator Kennedy (D., Mass.), and includes Senators Symington (D., Mo.), Humphrey (D., Minn.), Thurmond (D., S. Car.), Mrs. Smith (R., Me.), Cotton (R., N. Hamp.), and Martin (R., Ia.). The Senate Committee on Government Operations will retain control over any changes in Executive organization requiring a Reorganization Plan. If changes require substantive legislation, they will presumably be sent to the substantive committees involved.

4. At Senator Saltonstall's request, the DCI talked with him today concerning a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence. The DCI told me that Saltonstall was concerned about the Mansfield resolution, but felt that it would not pass. He stated that Saltonstall was prepared to oppose the resolution vigorously if we requested him to do so. The DCI stated that he had not yet made such a request.

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